



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
WETLANDS BUREAU
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RECREATIONAL MINERAL DREDGING APPLICATION

Application to operate a small motor dredge for recreational mining of gold and other minerals under RSA 482-A and RSA 485-A:17.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: Type or print clearly. Missing information may delay your application. The applicant shall submit a completed application along with a check made out to the DES Wetlands Bureau, and proof of residency (if claiming to be a New Hampshire resident) to the address listed above.

- FILING FEE:** A check or money order made out to the DES Wetlands Bureau shall accompany the application. The fee is \$50 for non-residents and \$25 for residents of the State of New Hampshire.
- PROOF OF NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENCY:** If claimed, attach a photocopy of your New Hampshire Driver License or Non Driver ID and provide the license or ID number below.

a. New Hampshire Drivers License Number: _____

or

b. New Hampshire Non-Driver ID Number: _____

- NAME OF APPLICANT:** _____
Last First Middle

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
Street/Road/ PO Box # Town/City State/Zip code

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____ - _____

- This application is for the CALENDAR YEAR:** _____. Permits are issued on a calendar year basis and expire on December 31st regardless of the date of issue. You may apply for next year's permit any time after November 1 of the current year.
- APPLICANT SIGNATURE:** Signature below certifies that: 1) the applicant has reviewed, and agrees to comply with, the conditions of Administrative rule Env-Wt 304.14 (printed on the back); and 2) the information provided in this application is true and complete.

Signature of Applicant

Date

FOR DES OFFICE USE ONLY:

Fee Received: _____ FILE # _____
Check # amount init. date

Env-Wt 504.01 Persons Requiring a Permit. Any person operating a small motor dredge for the purpose of recreational mineral dredging shall have a permit posted in the immediate vicinity of the dredging operation.

- (a) Each person 18 years or older who is participating in recreational dredging shall have his or her own permit.
- (b) Participants who are 17 years or younger shall be accompanied by an adult who possesses a valid permit.

Env-Wt 304.14 Gold Mining and Dredging.

- a. Power equipment for gold mining and dredging shall be limited to 5 horsepower, and shall not have any fuel, oil, or hydraulic leaks.
- b. Suction dredges shall be limited to a 4-inch diameter intake nozzle.
- c. Sluice and rocker boxes shall be limited to 10 square feet. Sluice and rocker boxes are mechanical devices utilized for separating gold from sediment.
- d. Use of mercury or chemicals for extraction shall be prohibited.
- e. Streams shall not be dammed or altered.
- f. Written permission from the landowner shall be obtained by the applicant before dredging.
- g. Work shall be confined to the beds of streams with no disturbances to the banks adjacent to waters of the state.

NOTE: The water in a stream, brook, or river is considered to be part of the “waters of the state,” but the stream or river bed is usually privately owned by the individual(s) owning the land along the banks. Obtaining permission from landowners is more than simple courtesy; you are extracting minerals that are part of their property.

In administrative rules Part Env-Wt 100, Definitions:

“Sluice” means an inclined trough to conduct water to a rocker box for separating gold and other minerals from lighter sediments.

“Rocker box” means a mechanical device used to separate gold and other minerals from lighter sediments.

Env-Wt 303.02 Major Projects. Major projects shall be those that meet any one or more of the following criteria:

(k) Projects in a wetland that have been identified by Natural Heritage Inventory - Department of Resources and Economic Development as an exemplary natural community, and/or that has documented occurrences of state or federally listed Endangered or Threatened species;

Env-Wt 303.04 Minimum Impact Projects. Minimum Impact Projects shall be those projects that do not exceed any of the following criteria:

(s) Dredging for gold or other minerals, provided the criteria of Env-Wt 304.14 are not exceeded and provided the project is not located in prime wetlands, marshes, bogs, and does not meet the requirements of Env-Wt 303.02(k).

Env-Wt 303.05 Projects in Jurisdiction That Do Not Require a Permit. The following activities shall not require application or notification to the department:

(d) Panning for gold or other minerals in sand or gravel stream beds, provided there is no use of mechanical equipment and no digging in the banks of the stream and provided written permission from the landowner is obtained.

Env-Wt 502.01(c) Gold Dredge Permits issued in accordance with RSA 482-A:3, XI expire at the end of the calendar year in which they are issued, as set forth in the statute.